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SIPDIS

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TAGS: ECON EFIN PREL KV BE

SUBJECT: BELGIUM SUPPORTS KOSOVO'S IMF AND WORLD BANK  
MEMBERSHIP BIDS

REF: STATE 33629

Classified By: POL/ECON COUNSELOR RICHARD EASON, REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

(C) POL/ECON Counselor delivered the reftel demarche on April 9 to Olivier Henin, Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Finance. Henin said since Belgium had been one of the early countries to recognize Kosovo it strongly supported Kosovo's membership in both the IMF and the World Bank. Once he returns from travel next week, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Didier Reynders would sign Belgium's written approval of Kosovo's membership requests in both institutions as required. Henin understood that Kosovo was electing to join the constituency headed by the Netherlands, and which includes Israel and Serbia. Belgium had also lobbied within its own constituency of mainly European members to support Kosovo's applications.

BUSH

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